

*Kent*

MALLING  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT

ON THE

Health of the District

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

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West Malling :

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1921.



TO THE

# Malling Rural District Council.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report on the Health of the District for the year 1920.

I propose in dealing with the various points to follow as closely as possible the memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health for the Guidance of Medical Officers, some part of my Report will therefore deal with matters already familiar to you but which are required by the Ministry for purposes of easy reference at headquarters.

The Malling Rural District is bounded by the Districts of Strood, Chatham, Hollingbourne, Maidstone Borough, Maidstone Rural, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks and Dartford. Inset towards the west is the Urban District of Wrotham.

The 38,000 odd acres included is exceptionally varied in character, both as regards surface and geological features. It takes in the range of chalk hills on its northern boundary, at the foot of the hills lies a belt of clay land, south of this comes a wide area of good agricultural ground largely under fruit and hops, beyond this area rises the lower range of Mereworth hills including a good deal of sandy and wellwooded Country on the top and on the northern slope while the southern slope with the flat weald country beyond is again principally agricultural land with hops, fruit and pasture predominating. Finally the river Medway in its lower reaches forms the centre for the Portland Cement industry, which with agriculture absorbs the greater part of the available labour of the District

Other important industries are brewing, paper-making, lead wool manufacture, stone quarrying, engineering and tanning.

Female labour is largely used in the fruit and hop gardens and in the paper mills. In addition there is a large immigrant population brought in to harvest the fruit and hops.

The Rateable Value of Lands and Buildings for the year under review is £146,782.

Poor Law Relief (exclusive of administration expenses) cost £7,300, the amounts spent on Institution and Out-door relief being respectively £5,234 and £2,066.

For gratuitous Medical Relief the Hospitals at Maidstone are most generally used, Rochester is available for the North Eastern parts of the District, and Tunbridge Wells for the South Western areas.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary at Maidstone is that mostly utilised but Rochester, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells are also available where the journey to those centres appears easier.

The Venereal Centres at Rochester and Tunbridge Wells are available for those who will use them, cases from this District are not very numerous, those brought to my notice do as a rule avail themselves of the treatment provided.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The 1911 CENSUS (the last taken) gave :—

Acres.....	30,146
Inhabited Houses...	5,528
Population.....	24,205

The ESTIMATED POPULATION for 1920 as given by the General Register Office is 23,299.

THE BIRTHS registered during the year number 703 of these 358 were males and 345 females, 664 were legitimate and 39 illegitimate.

THE BIRTH RATE for the year is 30.17 per 1000 of the Population, a very remarkable increase, that for last year being only 18.25 and in no instance since 1894 has the rate been so high. The rate for 15 years prior to the war averaged just under 25.



The proportion of legitimate to illegitimate births is approximately the same as before the war being 17 to 1 as against the old average 18 to 1. This is a marked improvement on the figures for recent years, those for 1917, 1918 and 1919 being respectively 10.5, 8.5 and 12 to 1.

THE DEATHS number 261 giving a rate of 11.2 per 1,000 of the Population, the rates for the three preceeding years being 14.7, 16.8 and 12.45.

The number of children DYING UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE was 40 of whom three were illegitimate, the disproportionate number of illegitimate children dying is less marked than usual, being 1 to 13 as compared to 1 to 18 in the case of legitimate births. The Infant mortality rate as a whole is 56.8 per 1000 births registered as compared with 80 per 1000 which is the rate for the country as a whole. The improvement in Infant mortality is well shown in the Statistical Table below. It must, however, be borne in mind that for several years past we have been exceptionally free from epidemics of Infantile diarrhœa during the hop-picking season and that a hot dry August and September may bring with it an outbreak, notwithstanding reasonable precautions.

The causes of the 40 Infant deaths were as follows:—

Immaturity	...	...	14	Diphtheria	...	...	1
Lung Diseases	...	...	9	Congenital Syphilis	...	...	1
Inanition	...	...	4	Accident	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	4	Other Causes	...	...	6

Of the above number 15 or 37.5% died within one week of birth.

From the principal Zymotic diseases there were 8 deaths, classified as follows:—

Measles...	...	...	3	Whooping Cough	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	3	Influenza	...	...	1

No deaths were recorded from Diarrhœa, Enteric Fever, Scarlet Fever, nor from other rarer diseases.

The number of MARRIAGES in the District during 1920 was 330, of these

271	were solemnized in the English Churches
10	„ „ „ Chapels
42	„ „ „ Register Office.

The marriage rate per 1000 of the Population is therefore 14.16.

The following Tables give much interesting detail:—

Year	Population	Births		Deaths		Deaths under 1.	
		Number	Rate per 1000 of the Population	Number	Rate per 1000 of the Population	Number	Rate per 1000 births Registered
1910	24,256	530	21.9	273	11.3	40	75.5
1911	24,205	538	22.2	304	12.6	63	117.1
1912	24,155	536	22.2	282	11.7	33	61.6
1913	24,105	562	23.3	305	12.6	60	107.7
1914	24,054	547	22.7	265	10.8	32	58.5
1915	23,463	474	20.2	321	13.7	35	73.8
1916	23,408	465	19.06	313	13.9	39	83.9
1917	22,310	387	16.4	310	14.69	28	72.3
1918	22,264	413	17.5	354	16.85	25	60.5
1919	22,873	426	18.25	279	12.45	24	56.3
10 year average	23,509	488	20.42	301	13.06	38	76.72
1920	23,299	703	30.17	261	11.2	40	56.8

DEATHS							Number	
Cause							Male	Female
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	11
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	14
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	17
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	14
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Congenital Debility, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	10
Violence apart from Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	30
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...		2
Total							130	131

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.—Mainly from the Mid Kent Water Company's reservoirs.

The water is obtained by pumping from deep borings into the Lower Green Sand formation at Halling.

The supply is constant and plentiful, and as will be seen from the appended Table of Analysis is of good quality; it is, however, much more costly than formerly.

There are approximately 5,610 houses occupied in the District, and of these 4,345 receive the Company's water—wells or springs supply almost all the remainder, a few being dependent on a rain-water supply.

Wells of all depths are in use from the shallow wells at East Peckham to the very deep sinkings found in the neighbourhood of the chalk hills.

Result of nine water analyses taken during 1920	Average	Maximum	Minimum
Free Ammonia ... ..	.0004	.001	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	.0007	.002	Nil.
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	.009	.015	.002
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours ...	.015	.022	.006
Total Solid residue... ..	23.4	25.4	21.6
Chlorine ... ..	1.79	1.8	1.7
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	.125	.168	.099
Nitrogen as Nitrites ... ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Temporary Hardness ... ..	8.24	8.68	7.63
Permanent Hardness ... ..	3.71	4.69	3.5
Total Hardness ... ..	11.95	12.32	11.48

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—There is some pollution of old standing passing into streams flowing to the Medway and also into the river direct. Sewage practically untreated reaches the Medway at Waterringbury and also at one point in Snodland.

I suggest that before adopting costly schemes at either of these places the question of the pollution of the Medway as a whole should be taken in hand.



**DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.**—The method of drainage, sewage and refuse disposal varies with the locality to be dealt with. Snodland has a system of water carriage, the greater part of the sewage being treated before reaching the river; West Malling sewage is also dealt with by water carriage with disposal over filter beds before reaching a stream and finally the Medway; Burham, Aylesford and Eccles have a similar system, but here the effluent from the filter beds is lost in sand before reaching the river; East Malling, Ditton and Wouldham remove their sewage by cart; part of Ightham is also dealt with in this way by private arrangement that is not at the cost of the rates. The remainder of the District being very scattered is dependent on cesspools with or without soakaways, according to the nature of the subsoil, proximity of wells and other circumstances, on earth or pail closets, and in a lessening number of instances on the old midden privy.

A few houses are without any drainage whatever, but in these cases there are generally large gardens where both solid and liquid refuse can be easily and satisfactorily dealt with.

Dry Scavenging by contract disposes of the dry refuse in Snodland, West Malling, East Malling, Ditton and Wouldham, details concerning which will be found in your Sanitary Inspector's Report which is appended. Through the Summer at any rate, the refuse should be removed at least once a week, and this is not generally done.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.**—Classified statements in this connexion will also be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**SCHOOLS.**—This subject again is dealt with in the School Medical Officer's Report.

## FOOD SUPPLY.

**MILK, DAIRIES & COWSHEDS.**—All milk consumed is produced in the District, and a considerable quantity is exported.

There are 47 names on the Register.

In one instance only has it been found necessary to give serious warning to a dairyman for recurring trouble in regard to cleanliness.

Generally speaking, great care is exercised with respect to the cleanliness of the vessels used at the Dairy, but the care taken to see that the milking is cleanly done is still often very insufficient.

For adulterating milk there were during the year five independent prosecutions under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, resulting in five convictions.



FOOD SUPPLIES OTHER THAN MILK have been good.

There was condemned by consent (no legal proceedings being taken) 16 cwt. 2 qrs. 11 lbs. of meat and fish. Of this quantity 10 cwt. 3 qrs. was tuberculous. Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act the following samples were taken by the Police Authority and analysed :—

44	samples of Milk.
86	„ Grocery (including butter and margarine).
19	„ Beer and Spirits.
1	„ Drugs.

As a result there were seven convictions for adulteration.

There were in use in the District in 1914—20 slaughter houses. There are now 20 plus 1 at Snodland used for the slaughter of horses for human food.

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One Hundred and Forty-five cases of Infectious Disease have been notified ; these include 35 cases of Tuberculosis and 6 of Malaria. Of 89 cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified, 77 were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria antitoxin is always available free of cost for the use of the general practitioners of the neighbourhood, but first cases frequently find the doctor without a supply in his bag when on his country round, and only a small proportion receive any dose before admission to Hospital.

The bacteriological laboratory at Maidstone has been freely used with the greatest benefit, and a considerable amount of help has been given by the Director in difficult cases, many of which have come under headings outside the present scope of Laboratory Work.

SCARLET FEVER.—There occurred 60 cases, and of these more than one-third resulted from a troublesome outbreak at Mereworth in connexion with the Schools. Cases kept on cropping up at intervals for the first six months of the year, notwithstanding repeated examination of the children, a short period of closure, and disinfection of the School.

DIPHTHERIA.—Out of 29 cases reported, 13 occurred at Burham and Eccles, principally during the first quarter of the year.

Amongst non-notifiable diseases Measles and Whooping Cough gave trouble.

MEASLES was prevalent at Offham, Ightham, West Malling, East Malling and Watlingtonbury, and the following Schools were closed for short periods:—Offham, West Malling Infants, East Malling Infants and Watlingtonbury Infants.

WHOOPIING COUGH was prevalent at Birling, Snodland and New Hythe, and the Schools at Birling and Snodland (Hook Infant Department) were closed.

All disinfection of houses, schools, persons, etc., is undertaken by the Staff at the Isolation Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The number of new cases notified was 35; these are very many fewer than in previous years, the numbers for 1917, 1918 and 1919 being respectively 77, 68 and 76.

The drop is no doubt in part due to the fact that there are year by year fewer cases of old standing which present themselves afresh for treatment, that is, afresh since the Act for compulsory notification came into operation, but one may reasonably suppose that the drop is also in part due to a better control over the disease.

There occurred 23 deaths. In 1917, 1918 and 1919 there were 34, 51 and 24 respectively.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary at Maidstone is that mostly attended; it is popular with and most beneficial to the patients, including especially contacts with a susceptible constitution and the very early cases of disease.

Health visiting in these cases is now entirely in the hands of the County Administration.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The supervising authority under the Midwives Act for this District is the County Council.

There is one Maternity and Child Welfare Centre for the District at Snodland.

It has now been open for over a year-and-a-half, and I am indebted to Dr. Cole the Medical Officer, and to Miss Miles the Superintendent Nurse, for the following details:—

Nurse Miles attends every Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and Dr. Cole every alternate Wednesday at the same time.

The Centre commenced with an attendance of 15 children with their parents ; there are now over 300 names on the Register, and the weekly attendance is between 60 and 70. Ages admitted range from birth to 5 years. Every child is weighed at each attendance, and mothers are advised especially as regards feeding and general hygiene, but no treatment is given. In cases where medical treatment is necessary the parents are referred to the family medical attendant or to the Hospital, according to the nature of the treatment required. The co-operation of the local medical men is much valued and assists in the usefulness of the Centre which serves the population of a very wide area, children coming from Cuxton and Wouldham on the one hand and Malling and Larkfield on the other, roughly a 4-mile radius.

A Baby Show in connexion with the Centre was held in August during "Baby Week." It proved a great success, 144 children under 3 years of age being entered in the various classes. Prizes were given and subscribed for, and were open both to children actually attending and to the general public.

On the alternate Wednesdays when Dr. Cole does not attend, Miss Miles gives health-talks and demonstrations as to the care of the children, the class being open to mothers and to elder children from Hook Council School.

In conclusion it may be said that much "spade work" has been got through, and that good results are already obvious ; the confidence of mothers has been gained, and the success of the Centre though primarily due to the energy of Dr. Cole and Miss Miles, is also the result of the tact and cheery help of the lady volunteer helpers.

In addition to the Weekly Centre there are also held the following clinics :—

1st Wednesday in each month	...	General clinic.
2nd & 3rd       "       "       "	...	Dental       "
4th               "       "       "	...	Ophthalmic clinic.

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Staff is composed of—

1. Medical Officer of Health.
2. Sanitary Inspector.
3. Isolation Hospital Resident Staff of Matron, 2 Staff Nurses, Hospital Porter, Cook and 2 Ward Maids. Additional Nurses, Laundry Maids, etc., are engaged as and when required.



HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION consists of—

1. Administration Block.
  2. Block A., with ward for 4 patients and an observation ward for a single case.
  3. Block B., with 2 wards, each with accommodation for 6 patients.
  4. Block E., with 2 wards, each taking 4 patients.
- Block A. is without either nurse's bedroom or bath room, and for the former purpose the kitchen has to be used on occasion.

There were admitted to Hospital during the year—57 cases of Scarlet Fever, 20 of Diphtheria, 1 of Smallpox and 1 of Enteric Fever. There occurred 1 death from Diphtheria.

The following Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, Regulations, etc., are in force in the District :—

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.  
 Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (certain clauses relating to Rural Districts).  
 Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.  
 Cleansing, etc., and Removal of Refuse (P.H. Act, 1875, s.44.)  
 Tents, Sheds, Vans, etc. (H.W.C. Act, 1885, s. 9 (2) ).  
 Public Mortuaries (P.H. Act, 1875, s. 141). At Aylesford only.  
 Hop-pickers and Fruit-pickers (P.H. Act, 1875, s. 314) and P.H. (Fruit-pickers' Lodgings) Act, 1882.  
 New Streets and Buildings (P.H. Act, 1875, s. 157, and P.H.A.A. Act, 1890, s. 23).  
 Regulations under the Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk-shops Order, 1885.

## HOUSING.

There are in the District approximately 5,610 houses, the general standard being quite up to, and probably above, that of the average Rural District.

Under the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, the work done may be summarised as follows :—

Number of Houses inspected under s. 17	...	...	225
Number found unfit for human habitation	...	...	2
Number of Representations for Closing Orders	...	...	3
Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	1
Number of houses put into proper repair, but in which no closing order was necessary	...	...	102
Number of houses made habitable after closing orders	...	...	0
Number of demolition orders	...	...	1

Number of houses demolished ... ..	1
Number of new houses erected, completed and occupied under the District Council Scheme ... ..	10
Number of houses commenced under the Scheme, exclusive of those already mentioned... ..	32
Number of houses commenced by private enterprise ...	25

The following Table indicates the position of the Local Scheme at the end of the year :—

PARISH				SITES ACQUIRED		House commenced	Houses completed and occupied
				Number	Area		
Addington	...	...	...	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ acre	—	—
Allington	...	...	...	1	1 „	—	—
Aylesford...	...	...	...	1	1 „	—	—
Birling	...	...	...	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „	10	—
Ditton	...	...	...	1	$\frac{3}{4}$ „	—	6
Ightham	...	...	...	1	$1\frac{3}{4}$ „	—	—
Leybourne	...	...	...	1	$\frac{3}{4}$ „	—	4
East Malling	...	..	...	1	2 „	—	—
West Malling	...	...	...	1	$2\frac{1}{4}$ „	20	—
Mereworth	...	...	...	2	2 „	2	—
Off ham	...	...	...	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „	—	—
Ryarsh	...	...	...	1	1 „	—	—
Stansted	...	...	...	1	$\frac{3}{4}$ „	—	—
Trosley	...	...	...	1	1 „	—	—
Wateringbury	...	...	...	2	$1\frac{3}{4}$ „	—	—
Totals				17	$19\frac{1}{2}$ acres	32	10

Three cases of OVERCROWDING were investigated.

Up to the end of the year 1920 there have been inspected under the 1909 Act—2,844 houses.

Of these, 1,776 have water closets.

583 „ earth or pail closets.

485 „ privy pits.

2,381 receive the Company's water.

356 depend on wells.

65 „ springs.

42 „ rain-water.

This figures are not accurate at the present time, as since the inspections many privy pits have been abolished, and some houses then dependent on other sources now receive the Company's supply.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

There are on the Register, 17 Factories and 92 Workshops, and there is one underground bakehouse.

Your Sanitary Inspector reports—

237 inspections with 10 instances of defects, all of which were remedied in due course.

## HOP-PICKING.

Weather on the whole was unfavourable for the pickers, a wet and stormy time with fine intervals. There was, notwithstanding, very little sickness.

There occurred 3 cases of Scarlet Fever (2 separate centres) and 2 of Diphtheria. Four of the cases were removed to Hospital and did well, the fifth, a mild case of Diphtheria, bolted to London before the bacteriological examination and diagnosis were complete. The Doctor and Medical Officer of Health concerned were both communicated with.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

*May 19th, 1921.*

ARTHUR H. ROBERTS.





## WEST MALLING,

MARCH 29th, 1921.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Malling Rural District Council.*

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1920 in respect to my duties as Inspector of Nuisances, Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, 1909-1919, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts, Inspector under the Factory and Workshops Act, Inspector of Dairies and Cowsheds, Inspector of Canal Boats and Surveyor of New Streets and Buildings.

## NUISANCES.

Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	137
Drains blocked...	..	...	...	...	..	141
Defective and insufficient drains	...	...	...	...	...	63
Defective sinks and waste pipes	...	...	...	...	..	29
Defective roofs and gutters	...	...	...	...	...	109
Defective flooring	...	...	...	...	...	37
Dirty dwellings...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Defective paving	...	...	...	...	...	27
Dirty bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dirty cowsheds...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dirty dairies	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty slaughterhouses...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient and unwholesome water supply	...	...	...	...	...	3
Insufficient cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	18
Insufficient and defective closets	...	...	...	...	...	107
Keeping animals so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	6
Overflowing cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	82
Overflowing privies	...	...	...	...	...	79
Other nuisances not enumerated	...	...	...	...	...	32
Total						921

I have during the year served 309 informal notices and 17 Statutory notices for the abatement of the nuisances scheduled, and the Clerk to the Council served closing and demolishing orders in respect of the house condemned as unfit for habitation situate in Chapel Street in the parish of East Malling, and the same has been demolished by the owner. With respect to the remaining nuisances, these, with the exception of 20, have been abated and the 20 are in the course of being abated.

There have been no cases brought before the Justices during the year.

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING 1909-1919.

During the year I have inspected 225 houses as against 247 in 1919, making a total of 2,845 inspections under the Act. I have written 73 letters to owners setting out schedule of defects, and have also met the several owners or their agents with the result that in most cases the defects have been remedied and the outstanding cases are being dealt with, including 2 houses unfit for habitation in East Mallong.

Of the 225 houses inspected I found 81 satisfactory and 144 with defects as scheduled.

## SCHEDULE.

Defective and insufficient closets	...	...	...	53
„ „ drains	...	...	...	33
Dirty houses	...	...	...	42
Internal defects...	...	...	...	52
External defects	...	...	...	70
Defective paving	...	...	...	40
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	2
			Total	292

The Cottages I reported unfit for habitation are registered 2685-2686 and are situated at Springett's Hill, East Malling. I reported to your Committee on May 5th and they were referred to the Medical Officer of Health for his report thereon. In my last yearly report, I reported that 6 houses were unfit for occupation; 4 at Ditton which the owner arranged to turn into 2, but it was found impracticable and the cottages have since been voluntarily closed and now are partially demolished; it would be well if they wholly demolished and the site cleared to prevent the harbouring of vermin. With regard to the 2 at Blue Bell Hill the Council stayed their hand in consequence of house shortage; these houses are in a very unsanitary condition and a closing and demolition order should be, in my opinion, made.

I submit the following summaries of houses inspected during 1920 :—

## WATER SUPPLY.

164 houses supplied by the Mid Kent Water Company.

38	„	„	„	Wells.
13	„	„	„	Springs.
10	„	„	„	Rainwater.

## PRIVY ACCOMMODATION.

100	houses	have	water	closets.
15	„	„	earth	closets.
47	„	„	pails.	
63	„	„	middens.	

The 225 houses inspected and reported upon are in the following parishes :—

Aylesford	...	...	...	45
Addington	...	...	...	2
Allington	...	...	...	2
Birling	...	...	...	8
Burham	...	...	...	6
Ditton	...	...	...	18
Ightham	...	...	...	25
East Malling...	...	...	...	5
West Malling	...	...	...	17
Mereworth	...	...	...	1
Ryarsh	...	...	...	11
Stansted	...	...	...	8
Snodland	...	...	...	21
Wateringbury	...	...	...	34
Wouldham	...	...	...	22

## SCAVENGING.

SNODLAND.—The dry scavenging in this parish has been satisfactorily carried out by contract; there has been 1,486 loads of refuse removed during the year at a cost of **£365**.

WOULDHAM.—The combined system of scavenging is here carried out by contract and is working satisfactorily; the following shews details of the work done at a cost of **£229**.

Loads from cesspools.	Loads from privies.	Pails emptied.	Loads of refuse.
72	51	13,282	551

WEST MALLING.—The Council here contract for the dry scavenging, 800 loads of refuse being removed at a cost of **£200**.

WEST MALLING SEWAGE OUTFALL.—The works are under control of the West Malling Sanitary Committee and managed by me under their direction, the working is by the Septic System with triple filtration beds. The cost for the year has been **£92 19s. 10½d.** The ground adjoining the septic tanks and filter beds are let to Mr. Hooson, Ryarsh Farm, at a rent of £5 per annum; the Council reserve to themselves the right of depositing sludge and diverting storm water on to the land.



SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—I have during the year from time to time inspected the slaughterhouses in the district and have had occasion to serve 4 informal notices on the occupiers for the cleansing and limewhiting of their slaughterhouses. On re-inspection I have found the necessary work of cleansing had been carried out. During the year I inspected 2 carcasses of beef; one weighing 70 stone and one 80 stone in weight, in both cases the meat was in a very bad tuberculous condition, and Mr. Crowhurst, veterinary surgeon, confirmed the condition and I had the meat carbolized and buried; there was no attempt on the part of the butchers to offer the same for sale, and I issued certificate. I also condemned 411 lbs. of frozen and chilled beef which I found in a stinking and sweated condition and for which I issued certificates, the meat not being exhibited for sale. There are 20 slaughterhouses and 1 for slaughtering of horses for human consumption.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—I have visited and inspected the various cowsheds and dairies during the year. I have served informal notices for the cleansing of 4 cowsheds and 2 dairies during the year, and on re-inspection I found the premises cleansed and limewhited. There are at the present time 47 registered cowkeepers dairymen and milksellers.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

During the year I have made 237 inspections—200 inspections of workshops, 37 inspections of factories. I have served informal notices on 5 occupiers for cleansing of their bakehouses, and limewhiting same; also on occupier of builder's premises to repair and cleanse defective privy; also on clothier's workshop to provide fire escape ladder, and on factory to cleanse closet and clear drain. On re-inspection I found the defects remedied. There is one underground bakehouse always kept very clean.

#### Schedule of Defects :—

##### WORKSHOPS—

Dirty bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dirty privy at Builder's yard	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective floor and seat to privy at builder's yard	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient means of escape in case of fire at	...	...	...	...	...	1
Clothier's workshop	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						8

##### FACTORIES—

Dirty closet	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective drain	...	...	...	...	...	1
						2

There are now on the register 92 workshops and 17 factories—

### PETROLEUM ACT.

I have inspected from time to time during the year the several premises licensed by the Council for the storage of petrol and carbide of calcium, and have found the premises satisfactory.

### CANAL BOATS ACTS.

I have during the year visited the various wharfs and sidings in the District but have been unable to make any inspections as the boats I have seen have had no one on board. Directly the boats are made fast the master locks the cabin and does not appear again until the boat is ready to go.

There were no cases of infectious diseases reported.

### HOP-PICKING SEASON.

There were 39 hopper encampments in the District providing accommodation for the immigrant hop-pickers as follows :—

1 Addington	...	280	adults plus children		
1 Aylesford	...	25	"	"	"
2 Ightham	...	200	"	"	"
5 East Malling	...	1,100	"	"	"
2 West Malling	...	150	"	"	"
2 Mereworth	...	260	"	"	"
3 Offham	...	500	"	"	"
18 East Peckham	...	1,860	"	"	"
1 Ryarsh	...	15	"	"	"
4 Wateringbury	..	1,000	"	"	"
<hr/> Totals 39		<hr/> 5,390	"	"	"
		<hr/>			

The following accommodation was provided for the housing of the hop-pickers :—

Huts.	Cottages.	Tents.	House Carts.
1,220	2	25	6

### WATER SUPPLY—

Mid-Kent.	Wells.	Springs.
19	13	17

FOOD SUPPLY.—The food supply on the whole was satisfactory and principally supplied by the local tradesmen. I was called in to inspect 168 lbs. forequarter of imported beef (included in report

under slaughterhouses). On inspection I found the meat in stinking condition and quite unfit for human food ; I had the same destroyed and issued certificate, it not having been exposed for sale.

A hawker named Clizzard brought me 3 boxes of salted herrings and 6 boxes of kippers from East Peckham for examination, these I found unfit for human consumption and had the same destroyed and buried, and issued certificate, the weight of the fish approximately 248 lbs.

#### INFECTIOUS CASES.

There were 2 cases of Scarlet Fever at West Malling, 1 case of Diphtheria, East Malling, the 3 cases were removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital, the Huts disinfected and the bedding burnt.

#### NEW STREETS AND BUILDINGS.

During the year 68 plans have been submitted to your Council's Committee for consideration as under — 60 were approved, 7 conditionally, and 1 referred back for detail plan. In consequence of shortage of dwelling houses the Council have for the present considerably relaxed their bye-laws so that timber buildings may be erected.

The following plans were approved:—

Houses (including 4 tenement houses)	...	10
Additions to Houses	... ..	5
Cottages	... ..	20
Additions to Cottages	... ..	9
Bungalows (brick)	... ..	11
" (timber)	... ..	14
Workshops	... ..	8
Factories	... ..	1
Hutments at Preston Hall, Aylesford	...	105
Workmen's Hall "Recreation"	... ..	1
Motor Garages	... ..	2
Total		186

During the year the following buildings have been completed and occupied.

Houses	...	5
Cottages	...	18
Bungalows	...	7

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES SOUTER.





